

Mr. Millan continues to serve the community by maintaining memberships on many committees and boards. From the Boy Scouts of America and the Harrison PTA, to Club Espana and Casa Galicia, Mr. Millan has solidified his position in the community as a youth advocate and Hispanic Leader.

And his efforts have not gone unnoticed. Mr. Millan has won numerous awards including the Award of Honor Al Merito for Commitment to the Hispanic Community and awards of support from the Uruguayan, Portuguese, and Equatorian communities.

In addition to the leadership and support Mr. Millan has provided to the Latinos of Harrison, he has also served the larger community through his environmental concerns. Acting as Chairman to a number of environmentally conscious organizations such as Clean Communities, the Beautification Committee, and the Brownfields Committee, Mr. Millan helped shine a light on environmental issues both in the 13th District as well as the state of New Jersey.

These two men exemplify leadership and dedication to both the Hispanic Community and the community at large. For these tremendous contributions to New Jersey and their incredible example as public servants, I am very happy to honor these individuals for their achievements. I salute and congratulate both of them on their extraordinary accomplishments.

CONGRATULATING DANIEL DIRNBERGER OF ORAN, MO: SECOND PLACE NATIONAL WINNER IN THE VFW 1999 VOICE OF DEMOCRACY PROGRAM

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 1999

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, February 28, 1999, the Veterans of Foreign Wars announced that Daniel Dirnberger, a senior at Oran High School in Scott County, Missouri, was the second place National winner of the "1999 Voice of Democracy Program." Daniel was sponsored by Morley VFW Post 5368 and its Ladies Auxiliary. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Dirnberger, and he plans on attending Southeast Missouri University next school year.

Daniel's essay, entitled "My Service to America," captures the very essence of what it means to be an American. In a self-governing nation such as ours, each and everyone of us serves our country when we "simply be the best we can be, fight the good fight, and be someone who is strong and proud to call themselves an American. We do that and everything that our elders bled, fought, and died for will be truly honored." I have enclosed a copy of Daniel's essay for the record. I hope that my colleagues will take a few minutes to read his words, and to share his essay with young people in their districts. Daniel exemplifies the energy, the optimism, and the dedication to country that compelled our Founding Fathers in their drive to create one nation, under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all.

MY SERVICE TO AMERICA

(By Daniel Dirnberger)

As I stood in the darkness of the theater watching the end of the war movie "Saving Private Ryan" my eyes welled up with tears as the older Private Ryan stood at the grave of his friend. This scene made me think about how much these brave men and women have had to suffer and sacrifice so that our freedom may endure to this day. From where I stood I could see many of the reactions of the people in the audience. Some wept, others held their heads low, and still others seem so shocked that emotional reaction was impossible for them to express. What attracted my attention, however, was the reaction of the war veterans who had come to see the movie that day.

The veterans sat in a group on the top row. None of them had shown any emotion during the movie until Private Ryan saluted the grave of his friend. At that moment the entire group of veterans stood up silently. Each one took off his hat, and all bowed their heads. This simple, quiet act touched me deeply and almost drove me to tears. It filled me with a deep sense of pride and admiration for these men and women who had endured so much for our country.

As I walked out of the theater I felt ashamed. These people have given so much and I have given so little. Then I began to think about my service to America, what was I doing to try and make this country a better place? I could not think of any major task that I had accomplished to make me worthy of the freedom that was given to me. Then I thought of a very different service that I had been performing since I was young. I have always tried to do well in school, be an upright citizen, and obey the laws but these things were so minor, so insignificant that they could not possibly matter in this big country of ours.

I know now that I was wrong about these small services to America. These services are not insignificant: they are the most important services that we as Americans today can do for our country. Just think what would happen if everyone tried just a little harder to do better, work together, and be the best they can be. Our country would be just a little bit better place to live and work. There are the pessimists who say that this view is nothing but a utopian philosophy that can never come true but these people have miscalculated their predictions of the future. They have forgotten about the power of the human spirit. This power can overcome any obstacle or challenge that is presented to it. All the spirit needs is a catalyst to push it on.

Too many Americans have lost their faith in the human spirit. The media's negative news and the magazines slanderous articles break down the structure of society. These things lead our entire society to believe that the world is a horrible place filled with the monsters that used to haunt us as children. I believe that the human spirit can be reborn. If we all do our part or if even just a few of us do a little, the human spirit will shine through the negativity that surrounds us and we can defeat the monsters that the media has led us to believe exist in our society.

Your service to America can be large or small, depending on the type of person you are. It does not take much to help your country or another person. Voting, volunteering, or simply picking up a piece of trash on the ground can help all of us. Don't say you don't have enough time to do something good and helpful. You have exactly the same number of hours per day that were

given to Helen Keller, Pasteur, Michelangelo, Mother Teresa, Leonardo da Vinci, Thomas Jefferson, and Albert Einstein. (H. Jackson Brown, Jr.) Remember, if you don't do it, you'll never know what would have happened if you had done it.

My service to America and my suggestions may seem small but in reality they are larger than you can imagine. By doing these little things we are contributing to a larger body of people who, like me, believe that the human spirit is the most powerful thing of all once it is driven on. The war today my friends is not on the battlefield of a foreign country but on the very land or our own country. My service, indeed all our services, to America is simply to be the best we can be, to fight the good fight, and be someone who is strong and proud to call themselves an American. We do that and everything that our elders bled, fought, and died for will truly be honored. We will be one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all!

TRIBUTE TO NICK MADDOX ON WINNING ASSOCIATED PRESS PLAYER OF THE YEAR FOR NORTH CAROLINA

HON. ROBIN HAYES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 1999

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor and pleasure to rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding student-athlete from North Carolina's Eighth Congressional District. Nick Maddox, a senior at A.L. Brown High School in Kannapolis, North Carolina, has proved through his play on the field that he is one of the top tailbacks in the country.

For the past two years, Nick Maddox has been honored with many awards for his athletic talents, including: Parade All-American and Associated Press Player of the Year for North Carolina. Mr. Maddox demonstrated that with a great deal of hard work, dedication to his teammates, and a strong sense of commitment, you can realize your dreams.

Mr. Maddox has been humble in the spotlight, giving credit to his fellow teammates and coaches. The A.L. Brown High School Wonders finished the 1998 football season with an undefeated regular season with a record of 11-0 and made it to the North Carolina High School Athletic Association division AAA football play-offs.

The 5-foot-11, 190-pound Maddox had 45 total touchdowns while rushing for 2,574 yards last season. Maddox finished his high-school career with more than 6,600 rushing yards and a state record 114 touchdowns. Mr. Maddox will be continuing his football career in the Atlantic Coast Conference at Florida State University.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Nick Maddox for his accomplishments on and off the field. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to an outstanding student-athlete.

ANTI-SEMITISM IN RUSSIA

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 1999

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of this House most disturbing developments in Russia. Anti-Semitism rears its ugly head in public statements blaming Russia's current problems on the "Yids"—statements not being made by neo-Nazi organizations or fringe groups, but rather by members of the Russian parliament.

In November and December of last year, two prominent Communist Party members of the Duma, Albert Makashov and Viktor Ilyukhin, blamed "the Yids" and president Yeltsin's "Jewish Entourage" for Russia's current problems. Duma Defense Committee Member Ilyukhin alleged that President Yeltsin had committed "genocide against the Russian people" with the help of Jewish advisors. Equally as disturbing is the fact that the chairman of the Communist Party did not rebuke his party members for their actions, rather, he made excuses for their remarks.

Sadly, Mr. Makashov continues on his rabid crusade. I have received reports that on February 22, while addressing a meeting of Cosacks in the southern Rostov region of Russia, Duma Deputy Makashov declared that an organization which he heads, the Movement in Support of the Army, was really the "Movement against the Yids," and called Jews "impudent and repulsive people."

In December of last year, CURT WELDON, myself and others met with our colleagues in the Duma and expressed our great dismay about the anti-Semitic statements. In fact, many members of the Duma, as well as President Yeltsin, have condemned Makashov and Ilyukhin. Unfortunately, many Members have simply made excuses. What kind of message does this send to the Russian people at such a critical time?

Mr. Speaker, these comments by leaders of the Russian people are despicable and must be condemned. I have joined with Chairman CHRIS SMITH and other members of the Helsinki Commission in introducing H. Con. Res. 37, which does exactly that, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. Speaker, looking for scapegoats will not resolve Russia's current crisis. More importantly, the promotion of hatred, anti-Semitism and xenophobia will not further the development of a peaceful, just and prosperous society for the Russian people. Democracy is not built on racism.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BEACH BILL

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 1999

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Beaches Environmental Assessment, Closure, and Health Act of 1999—also known as the BEACH bill.

The BEACH bill is straightforward. It seeks to establish uniform criteria for monitoring the quality of our coastal recreation waters, and to

require sufficient notification of the public when those waters pose a risk to human health. As my colleagues know, I have championed this legislation for years, continuing the efforts of our friend Bill Hughes.

In the 105th Congress, the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee held a hearing on the BEACH bill. During that hearing, Gary Sirota of the Surfrider Foundation remarked that as a life-long surfer he is often asked "What will you do if you see a shark." Mr. Sirota said that he always replies "It's the ones you don't see that you have to worry about." This exchange provides an excellent analogy to the problem of contaminants in our coastal recreation waters. Families visiting the sand and surf cannot see toxic dangers that might be lurking in the water. And what they can't see can hurt them.

Beach-going is part of our national identity. For those of us who live in coastal states, a trip to "the Shore" is a yearly summer event. Almost every American can remember a family pilgrimage to the beach—escaping the oppressing heat with a swim in the ocean. Coastal tourism is also big business. Members from coastal districts may be surprised to know that beaches are the number one tourist destination in the United States, receiving more visitors than even our national parks and recreation areas. Every summer, over 180 million Americans spend \$74 million during visits to ocean, bay, and Great Lakes beaches.

Both novice and experienced beachgoers are familiar with jellyfish and understand the need to avoid their painful stings. Unfortunately, other hazards, such as disease-causing bacteria, cannot be so easily avoided. These microorganisms can carry gastroenteritis and dysentery, which may bring on symptoms including fever, vomiting, nausea, headache and stomachache. The consequences may be even more severe for children, the elderly, and those with weakened immune systems.

Currently, there is no national beach monitoring program and no uniform standards for beach closings and advisories. According to the National Resources Defense Council's July 1998 report "Testing the Waters," only eight states comprehensively monitor their beaches. Even though the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has recommended water testing standards, the lion's share of our states do not monitor their beaches on a comprehensive basis. EPA's BEACH program, while a step in the right direction, does not actually require monitoring and notification. I commend EPA's efforts to address this important issue. In the past, the agency has supported the BEACH bill to give it the authority it needs to make testing and notification mandatory.

People have the right to know if the waters that they and their families swim in are safe. That is why I continue to champion the BEACH bill to establish uniform standards and procedures for beach water testing, monitoring, and public notification. When standards are not met, beaches should be closed and potential bathers should be adequately alerted. The sheer volume of visitors to our beaches dictates that our coastal recreation waters should be tested regularly, and that beachgoers should be notified of any potential health risks. Establishing uniform criteria for testing and notification is responsible economic and public policy.

The BEACH bill requires EPA to set minimum water quality standards to protect the public from disease-causing pathogens in coastal recreational waters and to establish procedures for monitoring coastal recreational waters. It requires states to alert the public whenever beach water quality standards are violated.

Mr. Speaker, the BEACH bill had bipartisan support in the 105th Congress, and I look forward to working again with my colleagues on a bipartisan basis to make the public protections provided by this bill a reality.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MEDICARE PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION ACT

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 1999

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, today I am reintroducing the Medicare Preservation and Restoration Act, which will repeal the Medicare private contracting provision of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 and clarify that private contracts are prohibited under Medicare for Medicare-covered services.

The legislation is simple. First, it requires that providers submit a Medicare claim whenever Medicare-covered services are provided to a beneficiary. Second, it requires that a provider, when treating a Medicare beneficiary, charge no more than Medicare's balance billing limits allow. My legislation will settle the issue of private contracting once and for all. It will explicitly prohibit providers from circumventing the Medicare system, preserve beneficiary billing protections, and restore the promise of quality and affordable health care for every American senior citizen. My legislation has been endorsed by the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare and the National Council of Senior Citizens. The Medicare Rights Center also has spoken out in opposition to Medicare private contracts.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is the only way we can continue to guarantee every senior citizen in America the right to affordable health care under Medicare. The private contracts allowed under the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 represent a dangerous first-step towards dismantling the Medicare program as a whole. They are ill-conceived and unnecessary. These contracts will allow doctors to disregard Medicare's most important protection—balanced billing limits. These limits guarantee that all seniors regardless of their income or their health status will have access to affordable health care. Private contracts destroy these protections and allow doctors the ability to decide patient-by-patient which senior will be forced to pay more than Medicare's set rates for needed medical care.

During debate on the budget bill in 1997, Senator JON KYL of Arizona included this private contracting provision to allow any doctor to treat Medicare patients outside of the program and bill the patient privately at any rate the doctor sets. During negotiations on the final package, the provision was altered to protect beneficiaries and to prevent physicians from moving back and forth between billing some patients privately and others through the